

COUNTRY <u>East Germany</u>		REPORT NO. <u>25X1A</u>
TOPIC <u>Military Information from Zerbst</u>		
EVALUATION <u>25X1X</u>	PLACE OBTAINED <u>25X1A</u>	
DATE OF CONTENT <u>21 November 1952</u>		
DATE OBTAINED <u>25X1A</u>	DATE PREPARED <u>21 November 1952</u>	
REFERENCES <u>25X1A</u>		
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REMARKS <u></u>		

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SOURCE 25X1X

- On 25 October 1952, the Gneisenau Kaserne on Dobritzer Strasse, Zerbst (M 52/D 98), was occupied by 2,000 to 2,500 troops wearing either red-bordered black epaulets or black-bordered crimson epaulets. Fifty to 60 trucks of the unit in the Gneisenau Kaserne were noticed in the garages of the former Scharnhorst Kaserne on Mozart Strasse. No tanks were seen.

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- During the period from 13 to 15 October, large exercises were held in the area of Zerbst as far as the Aken (M 52/D 96) area. Source was able to determine that the Elbe River formed part of a defense system which was penetrated by the attacking force after use of heavy artillery fire and aircraft. The defending forces slowly withdrew as far as the Zerbst airfield which was planned to be kept as a strong point. Source saw motorized infantry, tanks, armored scout cars, artillery including AT guns and rocket launchers with the practicing troops. All vehicles were parked under camouflage in daytime.

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- Comment. The occupation of Zerbst is still not clear. Previous information and the present report tend to indicate that the 23d Gds Mtz Rifle Regt and the 287th Gds AAA Regt of the 7th Gds Tank Div are stationed there.

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